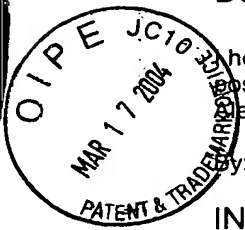


Docket No.: SYN-8311



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Sy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: March 15, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/728,385  
Applicant : Kevin Smith et al.  
Filed : December 5, 2003  
Title : Tissue Retractor and Method for Using the Retractor  
Art Unit : to be assigned  
Examiner : to be assigned

Docket No. : SYN-8311  
Customer No. : 24131

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98 copies of the following patents and/or publications are submitted herewith:

United States Patent No. 6,494,888 B1 (Laufer et al.), dated December 17, 2002;

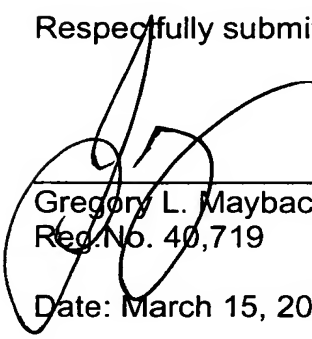
United States Patent Application Publication US 2001/0056282 A1 (Sonnenschein et al.), dated December 27, 2001;

International publication WO 00/78227 A1 (Laufer et al.), dated December 28, 2000;

International Publication WO 03/099137 A2 (Cerier et al.), dated December 4, 2003.

As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are submitted for any application filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Gregory L. Mayback  
Reg. No. 40,719

Date: March 15, 2004

Lerner And Greenberg, P.A.  
Post Office Box 2480  
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480  
Tel: (954) 925-1100  
Fax: (954) 925-1101

/bmb

FORM PTO-1449 (SUBSTITUTE)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.:

SYN-8311

Applic. No.

10/728,385

Applicant

Kevin Smith et al.

Filing Date

December 5, 2003

Group Art Unit

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  
(37 CFR 1.98(b))

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		PATENT NO.	DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE
	A	6,494,888 B1	12/17/02	Laufer et al.			
	B	2001/0056282 A1	12/27/01	Sonnenschein et al.			
	C						
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						
	H						
	I						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSL. YES   NO
	J	00/78227 A1	12/28/00	WIPO			X
	K	03/099137 A2	12/04/03	WIPO			X
	L						
	M						
	N						

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	O	
	P	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

